

SLOPER 5 REIGNS PLAQUE

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Some time ago, Mike Bament sent me a photocopy of one of Slopers 1939 plaques, which was in the National Postal Museum. After comparing the perfin dies and stamp values to those on my own plaque, it was seen that they were identical. This led me to wonder if the other known plaques were identical too. Derek Muggleton kindly allowed me to examine his plaque and Bill Cokayne sent me photocopies of two more, whose ownership he knew from the time he was a Director at Slopers. This meant I had access to five of these plaques and it turned out they were not all identical.

The chart on the following page gives a break down of the stamps and perfin dies. The first lot of details are for the two identical plaques. The plaque on the page after is a photocopy of the one, which is in the National Postal Museum. The ½d bantams and 1d blacks were used stamps but all the other stamps used were mint.

* When I first acquired my plaque in 1992 and the initials RTF were seen on the ½d KGVII stamp, we could find no match in any catalogue or in the Sloper Ledgers. As I was trying to get some general information about the history of Slopers at that time Bill Cokayne suggested I write to Mr Earnest Laver who, some years previously, had been a Director of Slopers. My enquiry was a general one but in the reply from Mr Laver was included the almost certain answer to the RTF, R.T.F., M.M.F. and MMF dies.

In the mid 1930's, Percy Sloper, the last of the family in the business, died. The accountants and solicitors for the family sold the company to Mr R. T. Firminger and he became the Governing Director, taking a more active role during the war. His wife was Mrs M. M. Firminger and when her husband died in the mid 1950's she became Governing Director in name only. The RTF and MMF dies must have been the initials of Mr & Mrs Firminger, who were the owners of Slopers in 1939, and the dies made for use on the plaques. Two of the four 'Firminger' dies are known on postage stamps - "M.M.F." (M3996.01) and "RTF" (R5268.02), the other two are as yet 'unknown'. In section 'M' of our catalogue, "M.M.F." is only known on one stamp [½d U(SEC) dating to c1957], whereas "RTF" has been reported on a 1d issue 'Q' dating to c1939.

Details of Sloper 5 Reigns Plaque

Cards 1 & 2

Position	Stamp	Perfin	Die	Identity
1	½d Pl.12	PS	P4110.03	Pharmaceutical Soc. of GB
2	1d Black	J.M/ & Co	J5300.01	Identity of user unknown
3	1d Plate	MJ	M3260.02	M Jacoby & Co Ltd
4	4½d Jub	ND/FS	N1030.01	National Deposit Friendly Soc.
5	1d Lilac	WM	W5160.01	William F Malcolm & Co
6	2d EVII	JP/ & Co	J6090.03b	J Pollak & Co
7	3d EVII	WW/Ltd	W8120.01	William Whiteley Ltd
8	5d EVII	RM/ & S	R3530.01	Ø R May & Son
9	1/- EVII	RM/ & S	R3530.01	Ø R May & Son
10	1d GV	F&M	F2630.02	Fortnum & Mason Ltd
11	1½d GV	J&/CH	J1470.01	Ø J & C Harrison Ltd
12	½d EVIII	RI/Co/Ld	R2840.01	Royal Insurance Co. Ltd.
13	2½d EVIII	OU/DC	O1910.02	Oldbury/Ø Ormskirk UDC
14	½d GVI	RTF *	R5268.02	Ø Mr R T Firminger
15	1d GVI	B/Bk	B0740.02	Barclays Bank Ltd
16	1½d GVI	SM/BP	S4810.01a	Shell Mex & British Petroleum

Card 3

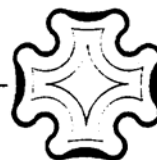
Position	Stamp	Perfin	Die	Identity
6	2d EVII	R.T.F. *	New die	Ø Mr R T Firminger
7	2½d PUC	R.T.F. *	New die	Ø Mr R T Firminger
8	3d EVII	WW/Ltd	W8120.01	William Whitely Ltd
9	½d PUC	R.T.F. *	New die	Ø Mr R T Firminger
10	1d PUC	M.M.F. *	M3996.01	Ø Mrs M M Firminger

Card 4

Position	Stamp	Perfin	Die	Identity
7	1½d PUC	M.M.F. *	M3996.01	Ø Mrs M M Firminger
8	3d EVII	M.M.F. *	M3996.01	Ø Mrs M M Firminger
9	½d GV	H&S	H6350.04	Hampton & Son
12	1d EVIII	NA/FI	N0090.02a	Navy, Army & Air Force Inst.
15	2d GVI	LCC	?	Exact die unclear
16	1½d GVI	MMF	New die	Ø Mrs M M Firminger

Card 5

Position	Stamp	Perfin	Die	Identity
6	2d EVII	R.T.F. *	New die	Ø Mr R T Firminger
7	2½d Jub.	ND/FS	N1030.01	National Deposit Friendly Soc.
8	3d EVII	M.M.F. *	M3996.01	Ø Mrs M M Firminger
9	½d GV	H&S	H6350.04	Hampton & Son



J SLOPER LIMITED - SECURITY PERFORATIONS

Through Five Reigns

(1858) (1939)

MJ → PS

JM & Co → ND FS

JP & Co → WM

WW LTD → RM & S

J & CH → RI CO LD

F & M → OU DC

RTF → SM BP

B BK

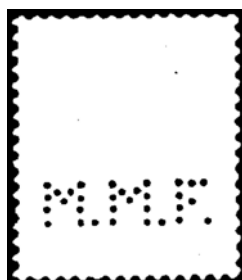
A UNIQUE SET of PERFORATED STAMPS
from the HISTORIC COLLECTION of
J. SLOPER & COMPANY LTD.

The Property of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd
22, Budge Row, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

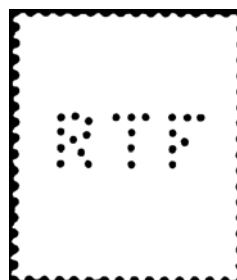
An advertising card produced in 1939.



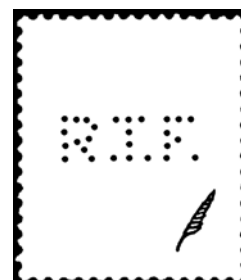
New Die



M3996.01



R5268.02



New Die